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IN REPLY PLEASE
REFER TO FILE: **WM-5**

April 25, 2002

The Honorable Board of Supervisors
County of Los Angeles
383 Kenneth Hahn Hall of Administration
500 West Temple Street
Los Angeles, CA 90012

Dear Supervisors:

**LOS ANGELES AND SAN GABRIEL RIVERS
WATERSHED ADVISORY TASK FORCE
WATERSHED FEASIBILITY STUDY
ALL SUPERVISORIAL DISTRICTS
3 VOTES**

IT IS RECOMMENDED THAT YOUR BOARD:

1. Receive and file the enclosed report from the Director of Public Works on the work of the Los Angeles and San Gabriel Rivers Watershed Advisory Task Force that identifies potential opportunities and guidelines related to improving recreation, land use and habitat management, water conservation, water quality and flood control, and developing a framework for a future integrated basin management plan within the Los Angeles and San Gabriel Rivers watersheds.
2. Approve the Advisory Task Force recommendations that a) Public Works work with the Advisory Task Force to identify potential local sponsors for the top three sites; b) Public Works request the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers to start development of detailed studies leading to construction of the top three sites as local sponsors are identified; c) the termination date of the Advisory Task Force be extended to October 31, 2004, and; d) the Advisory Task Force monitor the progress of ongoing efforts and complete a report within two years defining a more detailed scope for the Integrated Basin Management Plan.

PURPOSE/JUSTIFICATION OF RECOMMENDED ACTION

Your Board approved the creation of the Los Angeles Rivers Watershed Advisory Task Force on September 10, 1996, which was reconstituted into the Los Angeles and San Gabriel Rivers Watershed Advisory Task Force on April 30, 1998. This 12-member Advisory Task Force conducted a two-year effort to identify potential opportunities and guidelines related to improving recreation, land use and habitat management, water conservation, water quality and flood control, and to develop a framework for a future Integrated Basin Management Plan within the Los Angeles and San Gabriel Rivers watersheds.

The Advisory Task Force initiated the study in August 1999 at a cost of \$800,000, equally shared between the Corps and the County. More than 150 layers of readily available Geographical Information System (GIS) data was gathered from agencies and other sources. The study also included public outreach and development of a list of potential multipurpose sites through GIS modeling. Six watershed opportunities were evaluated in detail for potential future, multiobjective projects. From these six sites, the Advisory Task Force recommended Headworks Spreading Grounds, Lakewood, and Cal Poly Pomona sites for potential future feasibility studies.

The Headworks site is located along the Los Angeles River. It is owned by the City of Los Angeles Department of Recreation and Parks with an easement held by the City of Los Angeles Department of Water and Power. This site offers a large open area (46 acres), is adjacent to the river, and has already been under consideration for a multiobjective project by Water and Power. The adjacent land use would be compatible with this project, and there is a large public support for a project on this site.

The Lakewood site is a 15-acre narrow parcel located along the San Gabriel River in the City of Lakewood. It is adjacent to other recreational developments, including parks and an equestrian center. This site could potentially link with other adjacent habitat and park areas and may have the support of the City of Lakewood, who has been exploring funding and development of this parcel for recreational purposes.

The Cal Poly site is a 67-acre site located on the south campus of Cal Poly Pomona, adjacent to south San Jose Creek. This site could involve creating wetlands or riparian habitat adjacent to the channelized creek. Current issues regarding reduced groundwater availability and contamination could also be remedied by increased filtration associated with a multiobjective project.

Enclosed is a copy of the report of the Advisory Task Force for your approval. Other sites identified and considered in the report may be pursued in the future.

This report also includes a framework for preparing the Integrated Basin Management Plan (IBMP). The objective of the IBMP will be to bring together the diverse objectives of the over 400 stakeholders groups in the region to formulate a mutually acceptable approach to watershed management and development. The framework identifies problems and opportunities to address socioeconomic and environmental quality of the watersheds. The report also includes a tentative schedule to develop the IBMP. The Advisory Task Force is recommending that ongoing watershed management plan efforts be monitored over the next two years to develop a detailed scope of work for the future IBMP.

Implementation of Strategic Plan Goals

This action is consistent with the County's Strategic Plan Goal of Service Excellence. Development of the projects and the plan would provide for increased environmental restoration opportunities and additional local benefits like improved flood protection, water conservation, water quality, and recreational opportunities.

FISCAL IMPACT/FINANCING

There is no impact to the County's General Fund. Funding for the projects would be sought through local agencies and State and Federal grants. Funding for development of the IBMP would be through various sources, including the Flood Control District.

The Honorable Board of Supervisors
April 25, 2002
Page 4

ENVIRONMENTAL DOCUMENTATION

An environmental assessment finding is not required as a result of this action. Appropriate environmental documentation will be completed prior to returning to your Board for approval of the IBMP and future projects.

IMPACTS ON CURRENT SERVICES (OR PROJECTS)

There is no negative impact on current County services or projects as a result of the action.

CONCLUSION

Please return two approved copies of this letter to Public Works.

Respectfully submitted,

JAMES A. NOYES
Director of Public Works

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Enc.

cc: Chief Administrative Office
County Counsel